

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph starting at line 6 of page 1 as follows:

The instant application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ~~09/522,745 filed on March 10, 2000, entitled "Shipment Transaction System And An Arrangement Thereof" (USBA.003PA) now U.S. Pat. No. 6,697,702 issued February 24, 2004~~ which is a ~~continuation in part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/748,243, filed November 12, 1996, both of which are incorporated herein by reference. The instant application is also related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/259,657, filed February 26, 1999, entitled "Shipment Transaction System And Method" (USBA.02C1) now U.S. Pat. No. 6,571,149 issued May 27, 2003, and related to a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/310,711, filed May 12, 1999, with the same title (USBA.005PA) now U.S. Pat. No. 6,704,612 issued March 9, 2004, both of which are continuations of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/748,243 and are incorporated herein by reference.~~